

# California GARDEN



New Rose San Diego  
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at the  
National Rose Show at San Diego

**OCTOBER  
1935**

Roads of the Pacific  
*By C. I. Jerabek*

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Cost Neither Adds Nor  
Detracts  
*By Ruth R. Nelson*

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Good Grafting  
*By Murray Skinner*

*The Magazine . . .*

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## INFLUENCE OF MISS K. O. SESSIONS EVIDENT IN SAN DIEGO

October 7, 1935

Editor,

California Garden,

When I came down with my wife to San Diego to be present at the ceremonies on September 24th in Balboa Park in honor of Miss Kate Sessions, I was very much impressed by the fact that in addition to garden lovers and horticulturists, so many prominent and busy men, bankers, merchants and professional men, had devoted the whole afternoon to do this lady honor. These people not only honored Miss Sessions, but honored themselves by this gesture and by their tribute to the life and work of this woman who has done so much for us in Southern California.

Whenever I am fortunate enough to come to San Diego and I drive around the residential sections, including those of La Jolla, National City, etc., I am always struck by the free use of flowering trees, shrubs and vines, which afford so much color and beauty. I wish that all cities and towns in Southern California would follow the example of San Diego and also of Santa Barbara in this respect. It is plain to see that the influence of Miss Sessions and her disciples, of whom she has and has had so many, has been to a great extent responsible for this desirable condition. I like to imagine that one day other municipalities will also plant such things as Hibiscus, Oleanders and Eucalyptus ficifolia in their parking to a much greater extent than

they do now. There are large areas in Southern California free from killing frosts and heavy winds where these plants will thrive and shower color and life abroad.

As in San Diego the influence of Miss Sessions is so plainly discernible, so, too, in Santa Barbara can be seen the work of the late Doctor Franceshi, who during his residence in Santa Barbara introduced so many fine plants which are now adorning our gardens. Santa Barbara like San Diego, has also possessed distinguished horticulturists and many true garden lovers. The people in these two cities have used much more freely than has been done elsewhere, the various Bougainvilleas and the different flowering vines. I am always surprised that these things are not used more frequently.

While it is perhaps true that beauty exists only in the eye of the beholder, no one can perceive these things without perceiving beauty. I never leave either of these two cities and their pleasant streets and roads, without regret, and without cherishing in my heart the image of a beauty I wish we might possess in more places in Southern California.

—Hugh Evans.

Dear Mr. McLean:

The Question Box in September California Garden shows some of your questioners are distressed by ants. Here is how I treat them—the ants, not the questioners:

The small red ant does not go very deep. They make their homes under loose boards, or anywhere young are sheltered from birds and

sun. I turn over the hiding place and quickly and thoroughly sprinkle them with distillate (cheaper than kerosene) out of a child-size watering pot kept for that purpose. If ants are working near roots they are cultivating the bad root aphid. A big teakettle full of boiling water is discouraging to aphids and ants. Be careful not to pour the hot water on plants, and soon stir soil to aerate it. Unless plants are very small or soft they are not injured.

If any ants survive they hurry away like the Mother Goose man who ran 15 miles in 17 days and never looked behind him.

When I make a garden almanac instead of a front page picture of that hara-kari nudist amid his zodiacal circus, there shall be a worried looking person carrying a sprayer, a package of poison, three kinds of traps, a gun, and a kettle of boiling water. His satellites shall be the figures of aphid, ant, caterpillar, red-spider, scale, snail, mouse, rat, rabbit, squirrel, gopher and possum.

All of these twelve with their varieties I have met, either personally or by their depredations. No wonder the poor gardener thinks at times that life is just one pest after another.

Then some fair morn he finds a fragrant blossom on the new rose, and quite forgotten are all his woes.

Yours truly,

The Gray Goose.

## NOTICE

On file and for sale, complete copies of all "California Gardens" magazines.



## THE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MEETINGS

Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president and able leader of the Floral association, has been ill for what seems a very long time. The September and October meetings would have fallen very flat indeed had not three gentlemen gallantly given their best to fill the gap occasioned by Mrs. Greer's absence.

The three are Robert R. McLean, agricultural commissioner and vice-president of the association, who presided at the two meetings; Fred Bode, Sr., and Richard Requa.

Bode spoke at the September meeting on fall planting. He covered the subject thoroughly and then answered questions as long as anybody wanted to ask them, or at least until the clock hands insisted it was past time to adjourn.

Requa entertained the October gathering with a colored motion picture of the Exposition. This was a two-fold treat since the picture were that particularly adept new process that was introduced coincidentally with the Exposition (there couldn't have been a better time); and since the pictures were taken by Requa himself. They were most artistic.

Not many people realize that Requa is the architectural director of the 1935 Exposition. He never shouts it around and his explanations of the new trends in architecture and gardening are devoted to interesting his hearers in these things so thoroughly that they think about them seriously afterward. If they forget that the speaker succeeded Bertram Goodhue, noted architect of the first Exposition, he evidently can't be bothered.

The first Exposition, says Requa, started California on the way to home styles famous all over the world for individuality, beauty and fitness. The second Exposition develops this style more fully with modern improvements not known in 1915.

Home and garden are more firmly wedded than ever with the designing of walls as backgrounds for vines and shrubs instead of barriers against the outdoors; and the planning of doors and windows to

# A Manual of Southern California Botany...

By DR. PHILIP MUNZ

Professor Philip Munz of Pomona College has done something splendid for the wild flower lovers of southern California. I mean the *real* wild flower lovers—those who must know something of a flower besides its common name and its color. He has given us the manual of southern California botany which we have been waiting for so long. (A Manual of Southern California Botany, J. W. Stacey, \$5.00).

Dr. Munz is something more than a herbarium botanist. He knows his southern California and for years has made field trips, accumulating the knowledge contained in this book, which is the most exhaustive flora of the region ever published, containing, in addition to the thousands of known species and varieties, several hundred never before described.

Although technical enough to be used as a text book, Dr. Munz's manual is quite practical for lay use and any one at all interested in our native flowers will enjoy his "Discussion of the Distribution of Southern California Plants" which preceded the general keys. Such preliminary chapters are usually of absorbing interest and this one is no exception, offering a peep into the geologic history and the phy-

include the garden as part of the house.

Inspiration for these simple architectural lines with no overhanging eaves or dark porches comes from the Aztec and Mayan prehistoric cities and the Indian pueblos of the southwestern United States, says Requa. The Spanish Village and the Palisades buildings at the Exposition are examples of the adaptation.

A number of novel shrubs were identified by C. I. Jerabek at the October meeting after Mr. Requa's

## ... New Manual Hailed By Wild Flower Lovers

geographic features of the country, a brief but illuminating discussion of the life-zones and a most interesting series of lists of endemics. And at the end of the volume, in addition to the usual glossary and index, is a list of nomenclatural changes, another of persons for whom species have been named and a third of the meanings and derivations of specific names, this last being especially valuable.

Between these sections at beginning and end are the five hundred and ninety-six pages of the "Descriptive Flora" with many illustrations. Three of Dr. Munz' students are to be thanked for these clear drawings. But it must be admitted that the "wayfaring man tho' a fool" would have found reference easier and quicker if the drawings had been named as well as numbered.

All those who have more than a superficial interest in the flowers of custom of bringing new specimens a necessary part of their traveling equipment. It has already taken its place among the impedimenta of my car, along with Jepson's "Manual", Sudworth's "Trees" and Hoffman's "Birds".

LESTER ROWNTREE,  
Carmel, California.

talk and then passed through the audience; and a suggestion is hereby boldly and publicly made. All such floral samples should be tagged with their names in addition to being introduced and passed. Calling the names goes just halfway. The custom of bringing new specimens is too good a one not rate this final improvement which will make it perfect. Five or ten minutes before coming to order with some one writing the names and some one else pinning them on would be time very well spent. —Ada Perry.



# Roads of the Pacific...

By C. I. JERABEK

## ... Varied Landscaping Effects Used To Portray Roads of Fourteen Countries

One of the most interesting and instructive pastimes at the California Pacific International Exposition is the motor trips made by the Ford cars over the serpentine road built in fourteen sections to represent the same number of renowned roads of the Pacific.

### The Yuma Road

We first proceed over a type of the early desert highway between El Centro, Calif. and Yuma, Ariz.; this unique road is composed of planks, fastened together with iron strips.

Along the way is a scene typifying the desert. There are many varieties of cacti, including the famous giant cactus (Sahuaro). Yuccas, Ocotillo, Joshua trees, and other plants which are not of the desert but are used to give that arid appearance.

### Summer Palace Road

Just beyond a stone road of China which stretches between Peiping to the Western Hills, this was constructed about 1708 A.D.

Having reached this section the landscape changes to rocky ledges, here are various types of dwarf Juniper, Aleppo pines, Hibiscus, Buddleia, Pyracantha. Near a rustic bridge and a red Pagoda is a weeping mulberry and Pistachio tree, in the background can be seen dwarf bamboo, while sprawling over the bank near the roadway are Pauls Scarlet and Mermaid roses.

### Benquet Road

A short distance and the car glides over another section of roadway, this one is of the Philippine Islands, a tarbound macadam highway connecting Manila with Beguio, the Summer Capital.

More rock terraces, giant reeds, bamboo, pampas grass, red-hot pokers, hydrangeas, umbrella plants and trailing over the bank ivy-leaved geraniums.

### Royal Road of the Incas

Now we have a glimpse of the road from Quito, Ecuador through Peru, this ancient highway was made of stone blocks. Here the road cuts

through a steep slope, the banks overflowing with Vitis, Bougainvillea, Pyrostegia and Distictis.

Higher up the incline are Acacia retinoides, Pittosporum tobria, Oleander, Abelia grandiflora, Cantua buxifolia and several varieties of Berberis.

Other attractive plants have been used as ground covers on the gentle slopes, Gazania Splendens, Ajuga reptans, Portulaca grandiflora and Thunbergia gibsonii.

### The Gold Road

Coming around a hairpin curve you find yourself in Panama on the road from Porto Bello to Panama City, this was a short-cut of the 49'ers to California, the Gold Free State. The roadway is constructed with cobble-stones.

Of course tropical things will be growing in this section, palms, Phoenix canariensis and P. dactylifera, Feijoa Sellowiana, Carica papaya, cynara scolymus, Catha edulis and Cyphomandia betacea, draping over the bank Hardenbergia Camp-toniana, Antigonon leptopus and other vines.

### The Caribou Highway

Following along the route we soon are in Canada. This highway was built for the gold rush of 1861 from Vancouver to Prince George, B. C., a trail through the forest constructed of gravel and log cribbing.

Featured along the way are Ulmus Americana, Pinus halepensis and P. radiata, Cypressus Arizona and funebris, Cedrus deodora, several varieties of Junipers, Betula alba—and a group of Viburnum opulus Sterile.

### The Richardson Road

The road gradually climbs through more fragrant pines and dwarf junipers, as we look ahead a fantastic totem to bespeak that this section is Alaska. We are now traveling the road from Valdez to Fairbanks, "the Famous Gold Road of the Klondike," gravel and corduroy make up the surface.

### The Oregon Trail

In the days when the homestead-

ers were hurrying from Independence, Mo., to Portland, Ore., they blazed what is now known as the "Oregon Trail."

To make it more realistic dead pine boughs, roots and cones have been strewn along the way. On the hillsides are growing Libocedrus decurrens, Umbellularia californica, Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon Grape) and Viburnum suspensum.

### The Tokaido Road

The winding way now takes us over that historic road from Tokyo to Kyoto, Japan. This was the main artery of travel during the Feudal Period and was constructed of gravel and stone.

Upon the slope are Cupressus arizonica, near a Japanese Torii a wisteria is rambling. Shrubs of Cotoneaster parneyii, scalicifolia and microphylla; Pittosporum tobira and its variegated type, Araucaria excelsa, Podocarpus neiriifolia, Pyracantha and Berberis. Trailing over the bank Lonicera Halliana.

### Old Spanish Road

Now we have reached a bit of the old 16th Century cobblestone highway of Mexico, from San Blas through Guadalajara and Mexico City to Vera Cruz. Featured here are fan palms, Washingtonia robusta; Cassia, Oleanders, Pomegranate, Poinsettia, and Lion's-tail (Leonotis Leonurus), Poinciana Gilliesii, Ulmus and Populas, Salvia farinacea and splendens, the common Geranium and the Pelargonium types.

A short distance there is a dry hillside along the highway a fence of Ocotillo stalks (Fouquiera splendens) within this enclosure aloes, Opuntia, Yucca, Agave, Euphorbia and Guzmania.

### Great North Road

As our motor car mounts the winding road we travel upon a macadam highway of New Zealand from Auckland to Wellington, a route of scenic beauty.

Plant life which is native to this country has been used in this section, Pittosporum crassifolium and P. Eugenioides, Lagunaria Pater-sonii, Myoporum lactum, Coprosma Baueri, Metrosideros robusta and tomentosa, also Phormium tenax (New Zealand Flax).

### Western Highway

Having recently visited New Zealand let us visit her neighbor Aus-

tralia and travel over a part of Western Highway from Ballarat to Melbourne. This road was built in 1852 of stone blocks and gravel, it was used principally for transporting gold to the coast.

By looking at the vegetation one might think they really were in Australia. *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, *miniata*, *constricta*, *eremophila*, *erythronema* and *polyanthemus*; *Pittosporum phylliraeoides* and *P. viridiflorum*, *Templetonia retusa*, *Hakea laurina* and *H. saligna*, *Melaleuca armillaris*, *lateritia* and *hypericifolia*, *Callistemon rigidus*, *Grevillea Banksii* and *Hilliana*, *Leptospermum Nichollsii* and *L. laevigatum*, *Calothamnus aspera*, *Hymenosporum flavum*, *Calodendrum capensis*, *Casuarina Cunninghamiana*, and *Acacia aneura*, *A. Baileyana*, *A. longifolia* and *A. pycnantha*.

#### Santa Fe Trail

After leaving this beautiful country we come back to the good old U. S. A. and take a ride over an old trade route to Mexico. This road goes from Independence, Mo. to Santa Fe, N. Mex., it is natural soil oiled and packed.

Another type of plants have been used *Crotalaria agatifolia*, *Parkinsonia aculeata*, *Fabiana imbricata*, *Exchorda*, *Cotinus coggygia*, *Prunus ilicifolia*, *Tamarix* and *Hesperoyucca Whipplei*.

#### El Camino Real

At last we come to the El Camino Real, "The King's Highway" from San Diego to San Francisco. This route joining the missions of California. In the days of the Padre it was a mere trail, but today it is a modern concrete highway ranking with the best in the country.

Both native and exotic trees and shrubs have been used extensively. The California ones are Sycamore, Torrey and Monterey pines, Holly, Coffee-berry, Flannel-Bush, Mt. Mahogany, *Ceanothus arborea* and *cyanus*, *Rhus laurina* and *integrifolia*, Olive, *Myrica* and Mulberry.

The introductions are *Eucalyptus*, *Erythrina Crista galli*, *Photinia senuolata*, *Thevetia nereifolia*, *Echium fastuosum*, *Ceratonia Siliqua*, *Melaleuca decussata*, *Stenolobium stans*, *Jasmine humile*, *Ilex cornuta* and *Lavatera Olbia*.

## Question Box...

By R. R. McLEAN

### ... Mildew on Dahlias Severe Late in Season

QUESTION: What is the cause of mildew on dahlia leaves? What can be done to stop it? Mrs. J. E. D.

*With reference to mildew on dahlias, of course the spores are present at all times where dahlias are grown. Weather conditions and the condition of the plants generally determine the degree of injury sustained by plants attacked. This mildew is usually severe late in the season only, when the vitality of the plants is considerably lowered and there is an extreme variation between day and night temperatures. It can be controlled if control measures are begun early enough, in the same manner as mildew on roses, that is, by the use of some standard fungicide having a copper or sulphur base. Bordeaux mixture and lime sulphur are examples. Many growers, however, prefer the simpler method of dusting frequently as necessary with a good dusting sulphur.*

Question: My lawn is beginning to look brown and dead. This summer I had so much water grass in it. What treatment should it have now?—Mrs. S. M.

*Answer: Water grass (crabgrass) is an annual and dies in the fall. In a few weeks, say about the middle of November, it should be all dead. Then take a Bermuda grass rake and go over the lawn thoroughly, raking both ways and taking out every bit of dead water grass. Next sow grass seed, either blue grass and clover or a special mixture intended for winter growth, rather heavily and work it in. More seed can be planted in the early spring if you do not get a heavy enough stand this winter. The new grass should crowd out some of the water grass*

when the latter attempts to grow next summer. If this process is kept up season after season, the water grass can be gradually reduced. Water grass thrives on a heavily irrigated lawn, and is not injured by close cutting as are blue grass and some other lawn grasses. Hence irrigate sparingly when water grass begins to start and raise the cutting blades of your mower so as to leave the grass longer. Unfortunately there is no royal road to water grass eradication, as it takes time and patience.

QUESTION: I have been trying to raise some California holly from seed. Many of the plants turn brown and die without any apparent cause when they are a few inches high. Can you tell me what is wrong and how I can correct the trouble? MRS. J. S.

*ANSWER: Holly plants (P. arbutifolia) are subject to a number of leaf spot diseases, but they generally attack the plants when they are older than your seedlings. The writer has, however, seen young seedlings killed by a bacterial disease known as pear blight or fire blight. This disease occasionally attacks full grown plants also, and unless checked by cutting out affected branches may seriously injure the entire plant. Although no definite remedy for pear blight—other than surgery which is applicable to large plants only—can be suggested, some protection can probably be given small plants by spraying them with Bordeaux mixture. Pear blight is spread from plant to plant by insects, chiefly, and every effort should be made to keep the seedlings clean in this respect. Bordeaux mixture, in addition to being a first class fungicide, is a repellent to most insects.*

Within a short time the highways of fourteen countries have been ridden upon, because of the newness of the planting along the route it is not nearly as attractive as it will be in years to come.

In the future as we journey over

this unique road and familiarize ourselves with the many genus and varieties of plants a better appreciation will probably be felt not only for the San Diegan, Milton P. Sessions, who landscaped this sagebrush hillside.

# Cost Neither Adds Nor Detracts ...

By RUTH R. NELSON

## ... Artistic Arrangements Important Features of Flower Shows

Another season of flower shows will soon be over. The stately dahlias have captured ribbons, gorgeous zinnias, chrysanthemums and autumn roses have played their parts. Now all these will be forgotten while new features are sought for the forth-coming exhibitions of springtime.

Slowly, but surely, our southern flower shows have been passing out of the doldrums. Fewer plants are displayed carelessly in rusty cans, and there is a pleasant decrease in the forests of bottlelike vases which formerly dominated our tables. There is an increasing demand for instruction and opportunity to display the general flower arrangements which give greater scope to the majority of enthusiastic amateurs, and bring into the exhibit a great deal of interesting plant material which cannot be included in the specimen classes. Flower show committees find the staging of these arrangements a problem of the greatest importance. Hence it is interesting to discover, here and there, the deadly monotony of narrow tables varied by displays placed upon various levels, and appropriate backgrounds provided against which the arrangements show advantageously.

The title chosen for this short article does not apply to the preliminary expenditures for a flower exhibition, because money must be spent, judiciously, if this is accomplished in an interesting manner. However, the responsibility of spending the show funds does not

concern individual exhibitors, except that it is necessary to understand the general plan of an exhibit, in order to arrange suitable entries. Each exhibit is considered by the judges in this relation, as well as its classification on the schedule. And thus we arrive at the part of the flower show wherein every club member can learn to take an intelligent share.

In small clubs it needs but a few exhibitions to point out the type of show schedule classified in such a manner that many members will "have a chance" at the ribbons. Choose the class, or classes, for which you have the proper materials, and DO YOUR BEST TO WIN! Many a good "try" has brought new and interesting material into the flower shows, and helped to raise the general standard of such displays. Just remember that, in the arrangement classes (and may these continue to multiply!), "nice material thoughtfully combined" is the keynote of distinctive work, according to Mrs. Walter R. Hine who has become an accepted authority through her prize-winning entries in the International Flower Shows in New York. It is from her book on "Flower Arrangement" that we quote the words "Cost neither adds nor detracts" from the success of a flower arrangement. A beautiful container holding expensive flowers must be disregarded by the judges if a well-chosen composition is found in the same class, and perhaps displays a simple container



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LEGAL HOLIDAY

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+ + +



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which has attained distinction because (1) proper relation of flowers to the container, (2) color harmony, (3) proportion . . . this must never be disregarded, (4) perfection of arrangement, which includes the condition of the plant material used. The really satisfying arrangement fulfills each of the above requirements, and practice finds us following these basic rules unconsciously perhaps, but successfully.

A description of a modest effort which won an unexpected blue ribbon proves that expensive competition should not discourage anyone.

The entry was made in a novelty class for "reflections", and was put in place together with a number of stunningly beautiful displays, where its simplicity was very evident. The container used for this composition was a porcelain fish about seven inches long and having a deep space for water. The fish was colored pale gray-green like the shade of seawater near the shoreline. The materials used were two interesting native plants which had been found growing nearby. Several stout but graceful stems of common ice-plant with its broad leaves of dewy green, rose from the back of the fish and spread downward giving an effect of ripples of water through which the fish might be moving. Several beautifully curving stems of velvety romero (wooly blue-curls) rose from the body of the arrangement in such a manner that "movement" across the mirror was suggested. This entire composition proved to be one of the most popular exhibits of the show, but its cost to the exhibitor was only thirty cents. Fish vase fifteen cents and bought merely as a novelty, and the oblong mirror in which there was a perfect reflection also cost only fifteen cents. Imagination and painstaking care did the rest.

However, let us offer a word of warning, as the result of exhibiting experience, **SUITABILITY** must never be ignored. If a fine container has been chosen for your entry, your plant material **MUST** be something taken from the finer classes. Pottery which is available in so many different forms, demands the substantial flowers in order to have the arrangement dominate the

## Coleus...

By BERTHA M. THOMAS

A variegated leaf plant will always attract attention. Nature knows we all love color, hence if she can double and treble it she has increased her popularity that much.

Years ago in Africa and East Indies she created the Coleus family with something like 150 varieties. What has evolved from those in the wild state was beautifully shown at our last Flower Show. Leaves notched, serrated, fluted, blotched, bordered—all colors and in all possible arrangements.

Blue, however is missing except for small spots in some varieties, although even for that fault she atones by making the blossoms of all varieties a very attractive blue—tiny but numerous. Perhaps you have noticed that first leaves are usually different than later ones. Mrs.

Peek, a coleus specialist, tells us that a cutting taken from different parts of these plants will partake of the coloring of the leaf from whose axil it springs. She is now working to obtain a plant with decidedly blue leaves and feels confident of success. We wish her good luck for we love blue. No other member of the floral kingdom has given us so many colors to the square inch.

## ... Blue Coleus the Goal of Coleus Specialist

They are not tolerant of cold—and a frost spells almost certain doom. They easily hold their own during our San Diego winters with no protection other than a sheltered position, and respond readily to liberal meals of water and food.

We may tell the story of the Coleus by naming them the plants which are always in bloom whether they have any blooms or not.

Bertha M. Thomas.

container. And in this type of composition a careful adjustment of the central flowers or leaves so that the hard edge of the vase is hidden, will give a touch of finishing gracefulness to the most formal bouquet.

Jubilant over earning first prize and one hundred dollars by their display at the recent National Rose Show, held by the San Diego Rose Society in the patio of the Ford Building, members of the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club are congratulating Mrs. R. H. Millar, president, upon the successful staging of this exhibit.

Again the club made use of a distinctive flower stand designed for them on modernistic lines, by H. W. Whitsitt, architect and member of the Garden Club. Lovely white containers and the gorgeous multi-colors of Talismans, Hoovers, Autumns, Marie Dots, Lady Forteviot and Irish Fireflames made the display another outstanding achievement of the Garden Club, whose hobby is "Flower Arrangement".

Every entry from Rancho Santa

Fe came direct from the garden of a club member, and the several entries which were made in the open classes all proved to be additional prize winners. Rose gardens of the ranch which were so successfully represented were those of Mrs. O. ReyRule, M. E. Harrison, Maitland Bakewell, Francis Noyes Hart, C. F. Myer, A. B. Wells, Dr. Carl Bertschinger, Mrs. T. L. Carothers, A. L. Wick, Mrs. Norman Carmichael, Mrs. John Robertson, Hal Carpenter and Clifton Williams.

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# Good Grafting...

By MURRAY SKINNER

## ... Most Fascinating Art in Realm of Plant-Craft

In all the realm of plant-craft there is no art more fascinating than that of grafting; one of the oldest among plantsmen, it still holds possibilities which intrigue expert and amateur alike.

In case there be anyone in the game of raising plants who does not know what is meant by grafting it may be simply stated that it is the attaching, by the use of several different methods of detail, of one plant upon another, the usual reason being to increase the speed of growth of a slow, weak growing plant by grafting it upon one which is a vigorous, fast grower; or to save the life of some sick plant, too infirm to advance its own growth, by drawing into its veins the healthy sap of its host plant. Frequently, though, grafting is done for the fun of the thing, and many novel effects have been attained, as witness two and three colors of roses upon a single root stock.

A basic feature of this strange analogy of the Biblical injunction to make two plants grow where one grew before, is the rule that there must be an affinity between the host and the scion. In a recent article, written purely in a spirit of clowning, the statement was made by the author that to protect his apricots from the depredations of neighborhood "help-yourselves", he had finally grafted them upon redwoods, and, he continued, he now wondered, himself, how they tasted.

The real kernel of this joke, to the man in the know, is the fact that apricot trees and redwood trees are not affinities, and, the body structure and juices being out of sympathy, such grafting is a preposterous monstrosity, not that any plantsman cares or dares to say such a proposition might not become an accomplished feat. It is though, tragically unnatural.

In the world of plants, one of the most interesting families is that of Succulents, which includes Cacti, and in this realm many fine examples of grafting may be displayed. Amongst such groups of plants the question of relationship still holds, and it is not customary to graft a *Stapelia* upon a Cactus, nor an *Euphorbia* upon a *Crassula*, nor do certain genera of cacti take kindly to certain other, unrelated, therefore unsympathetic, genera.

Even in their own groups certain species are more amenable than others. Thus, if one has a slow growing, rare member of the *Stapeliae* it would be placed upon some other member of the same group,—usually, and very reasonably, upon one of the vigorous forms of *Stapelia gigantea*. The grafting method used here is very simple; with a sharp, thin bladed knife, absolutely clean, the top of the *S. gigantea* is sliced smoothly away, care being taken not to crush the structure of the plant. The base of the scion of the plant to be grafted is cut in the

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same manner; a few seconds are allowed for the juice to coagulate, this is carefully scraped away from both cut portions, then the faces are placed one against the other, the scion is pressed, very slightly, into place and the plant set away to finish its joining. In this instance the juices of the two plants mingle and form a cement, holding until the walls of the cells have grown together.

One of the most interesting kind of grafts is the joining of a *Sedum*, say *Sedum dasyphyllum* with its lovely tiny blue-gray rosettes, like heaped up smoky blue beads, to the tip of a sturdy stalk of what is commonly called Mexican good luck plant, *Sedum praealtum*. In a short time tumbling cascades of milky blue headlets pour themselves down the dull green stalk of the host plant in fascinating profusion; or another experiment, attach a single snowy-webbed head of *Semprevivum arachnoideum* to another such stalk of *S. praealtum*, and watch the ensuing balls of green leaves festooned with filaments of white spider webbing drip in unequal lengths from the edges of the mother plant.

Cacti are usually very amenable to grafting and many a fine plant owes its continued life to the quick sure strokes of the grafting surgeon's knife, and the skill of his steady fingers, performing as delicate and as dangerous an operation on plants as any famous surgeon performs upon a human body. And in both instances the same exacting cleanliness must prevail.

Languid, slow growing or sickly *Mammillarias* take new lease on life when grafted to the strong body of a *Nyctocereus serpentinus*, with deft fingers a cleft is made in the one, a wedge is made of the other, a spine from a third is thrust through the joined edges of the two, a glass is inverted over them to keep out air and slow the drying, which causes the edges to draw apart with a resulting poor joining, and, after being set away in the dark for three or four days, they are then brought to the light, and soon vigorous new growth shows in the center of the grafted *Mammillaria*, and another

# A Handbook of Narcissus...

By E. A. Bowles, F.L.S.,  
F.R.E.S., V.M.H.

(Martin Hopkinson Ltd., London, 1934; 12s. 6d. net.)

This scholarly volume is quite obviously intended for the earnest student rather than for the everyday run of garden folk. As is to be expected of any book from the pen of Mr. Bowles, it is packed full of information, a good deal of it the result of devoted and often laborious investigation on the part of the author, and of the sort that most of us would find excessively difficult to dig out for ourselves. No other book we know contains so much about the history of the daffodils longest in cultivation and particularly about their names. The author's concern to dig out and establish the name best entitled to recognition leads more than once to a decided change from common usage. In grouping the horticultural varieties, Mr. Bowles follows the well known but admittedly awkward scheme of the Royal Horticultural Society, anticipating however, its ultimate expansion to take account of the host of newer types, for example, the pink "Leedsii" and the lemon-yellow trumpets. "A perfect classification of *Narcissus* does not exist", and anything approaching it is probably far in the future. Among wild species the *serotinus* group is regarded

as primitive. We hope no one will miss the tale of how the pretty mechanism of the micro operates to effect the quick opening of the flower at maturity, "nowhere plainer to study, or more charming in its presence than in the daffodil". On p. 30 we are glad to note the author's criticism of the awkward terms "perianth segment" and "limb". There is a full and entertaining treatment of doubling in *Narcissus*, but we must confess some astonishment when we read (p. 17) that "In America the name Daffodil is mostly used for double forms". Some good pages are devoted to culture, picking, and arrangement. Manuring is not recommended, but deep and thorough cultivation is held to be mandatory if good results are to be attained—"dig," says Mr. Bowles. He is fond of arranging the cut flowers, but often finding them rather ungainly by themselves, he makes the interesting suggestion that they be associated with bare twigs, which if wisely chosen, he finds more pleasing than any other setting. When it comes to raising seedlings he is unsure whether he had best recommend or warn. His favorite among all daffodils is *Dawn*, a *triandrus*-hybrid. The book is well printed, indexed, and charmingly illustrated by the facile hand of the author himself.

S. S. B.

successful operation is chalked up.

Rare imported plants, which their owner finds hard to start new roots on, may be given fresh impulse and vitality if grafted; seedlings may be advanced in speed of growth, one, two or even three years, through grafting; single heads may be increased to many by this method; plants under observation and which, on their own roots will not be likely to bloom under two or three years, often longer, may be made to blossom in one year, if grafted. For botanical work speedy results may thus be attained through the tendency of the plant to lose character through such rapid development is a decided drawback

and must be taken into consideration.

For work amongst plant breeders, years may be saved in the decisions as to the good qualities of a plant to be saved for continued experiments, since the speed in obtaining blooms from which to judge a plant's worthiness for us in further hybridization is greatly in favor of grafting.

The fascinating possibilities of grafting may be hinted at only, and, while a true plant lover may feel a bit of revulsion at such desecration of his plants, yet many are the times when he can express heartfelt thanks for a knowledge and skill at "grafting". —Murray Skinner.



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